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or whether they are held there in colloidal form. The material is so inert in its chemical affinities that we have not yet been able to kill it or to control it in any material way except by heating. This is a matter of the greatest importance in the cultivation of the soil and is a matter of profound importance in road building as it appears to be the main cause of the deterioration and the breaking down of the modern road surfaces.

MILTON WHITNEY

BUREAU OF SOILS,  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

FROM the report in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* we learn that Rumford Hall, Chemists' Club, was the gathering place on September 6, of the largest Council Meeting in the history of the society. President Edgar F. Smith was in the chair, and one hundred and sixteen councilors were present in person or by proxy. The business of the day consisted in large part of matters concerning the internal policies of the society, a complete report of which will appear in the proceedings in the October issue of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

Two matters of national policy were discussed at length. The society's committee on patents and related legislation submitted a report on the Stanley Bill, now before the congress. The following resolution was unanimously passed:

While the council is disposed to accept the views of its committee on patents, nevertheless it is felt that a constructive suggestion should be made by the committee as to legislation which would prevent the utilization of our Patent Office by foreigners for the suppression of the development of industries such as was so clearly apparent in the organic chemical industry upon our entrance into the war in 1917. The committee is therefore urged to consider this problem immediately and to report to the committee on national policies.

President Smith outlined the present legislative situation with regard to the organic

chemical industry, whereupon it was moved that resolutions urging the passage of a limited embargo on synthetic organic chemicals be prepared for presentation to the general meeting on the following day.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting in September, 1922, at Pittsburgh, Pa. It will be remembered that this section relinquished its lien upon the September, 1921, date to permit the international gathering to be held in New York City. The spring meeting will be held in Birmingham, Ala., early in April, 1922.

The secretary presented an ad interim report of the finance committee and gave statistics regarding the paid and unpaid membership. It is estimated by the directors that the actual expenditures for the year 1921 will exceed the receipts by approximately \$10,000.

The president of the Chemists' Club, John E. Teeple, presented a suggestion that the society take over the Bureau of Employment now run by the club, or establish a bureau to replace this organization. In accordance with the Council vote, the President appointed a committee consisting of H. P. Talbot, Edward Bartow, and A. C. Fieldner, to consider this question and report at the spring meeting.

Dr. Smith told of the work of the Priestley Memorial Committee, describing the Priestley portrait, and outlining the plans of the committee to establish a Priestley Medal fund. Plans are also under way for the restoration of the Priestley home at Northumberland, Pa., and President Smith spoke of his wish that the society might celebrate its fiftieth anniversary with a meeting at Northumberland in 1925.

#### THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE fourth annual meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held in Rochester, New York, on October 24, 25, and 26. A large number of important papers dealing with all branches of optics will be presented. Several of the papers on the program will deal with the various phases of physiological optics. At this meeting a section on vision

will be formed to bring together in one society the workers in different fields on the various phases of physiological optics. In this way, better cooperation will be obtained between the physicist, physiologist, psychologist, and the artist. This year is the centenary of the birth of von Helmholtz and one session of the meeting will be devoted to commemorating his work in the fields of optics, sound, and electricity. An address on "Personal Recollections of von Helmholtz" will be given by Dr. M. I. Pupin. Visits have been arranged to the plants of the Bausch & Lomb Optical Company and the Eastman Kodak Company.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE—  
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

THERE are being given this autumn under the auspices of the Southwestern Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science a series of lectures on the history of the Southwest. They are being undertaken at the special request of the Frontier Scoutmasters' Association, with the approval and support of the El Paso Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The lectures are as follows:

- October 5—The Ancient History of the Southwest as represented by the geological formations of the region: Professor W. H. Seamon, Professor of Geology at the Texas School of Mines.
- October 12—The Ancient History of the Southwest as represented by ruins, stone implements, pottery and other remains: E. A. J. Seddon.
- October 19—The Spanish Exploration of the Southwest: Mrs. M. D. Sullivan.
- October 26—American Occupation of the Southwest: Dr. F. H. H. Roberts, principal of the El Paso High School and president of the Junior College.
- November 2—History of the Mining Industry of the Southwest, from the earliest days: Lew Davis, of the El Paso Times.
- November 9—History of Irrigation in the Southwest, from the earliest days on: T. H. Clausen, of the U. S. Reclamation Service.
- November 16—History of Transportation in the Southwest: G. A. Martin, of the El Paso Herald.

November 23—The Indian Wars in the Southwest: Alvin E. Null.

November 30—The Present and Future of the Southwest: H. D. Slater, of the El Paso Herald.

The second annual meeting of the Southwest Division will be held in Tucson in the latter part of next January. It is expected that the meeting will be largely attended. There will be four scientific sections, instead of three, as at the last meeting. The Stewart Astronomical Observatory will be completed by that time, and Dr. Douglass hopes to dedicate it then as a special feature of the meeting.

ELLIOTT C. PRENTISS,  
*Chairman Executive Committee*

THE TORONTO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCE-  
MENT OF SCIENCE

THE engineering section of the American Association is arranging an important program for the Toronto meeting which will occur from December 27 to 31, 1921. The arrangements for the engineering sessions are in charge of Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, mining engineer, of Toronto. The programs aim to present the application of science to the solution of engineering problems. Many of the addresses will deal especially with the recent accomplishments of scientific engineering in Canada. It will be shown how scientifically trained men have developed some of the natural resources of the Dominion and the means by which this has been accomplished. Addresses already arranged are on the work accomplished by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario; on the mines and mining plants of Canada including an account of prospecting in the northern wildernesses; on the explorations for oil carried out in the valley of the McKenzie River by the Imperial Oil Company, and on the work of the Toronto Harbor Commission in improving the Toronto harbor for the accommodation of ships of ocean draft. All of them, and especially those dealing with exploration in the far north, will be of interest not only to engineers but also to geographers and to every one interested in the out-of-doors. These ad-